

2009 Rate Changes

The Seattle City Council has approved new service rates. Water, drainage, and wastewater rates take effect January 1, 2009. Solid waste rates begin March 30, 2009.

The changes will finance critical capital projects and encourage stewardship of the city's environment, including: water quality improvements like capping the city's drinking water reservoirs, a flood prevention project in Madison Valley, and remodeling the city's aging recycling and disposal stations. The new solid waste rates reflect costs for new collection contracts. Customers will see service enhancements, such as weekly food and yard waste collection, no more separating of glass recyclables and more items accepted, and new fuel-efficient trucks.

For more information on rates, please visit our website at www.seattle.gov/util and click on "Billing."

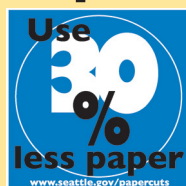
	2008 Typical Residential Bill per month	2009 Typical Residential Bill per month
Water ¹	\$24.61	\$27.74
Sewer ¹	\$40.30	\$46.23
Drainage ²	\$14.94	\$16.85
Solid Waste ³	\$23.00	\$29.20

¹ Typical residential bills assume monthly water usage of 5.5 ccf (hundred cubic feet) for water service and 5.2 ccf for sewer service.

² Drainage fees are billed for SPU as a separate line item on King County's annual property tax statements. The typical residential bill is for a parcel in the 5,000-6,999 square foot rate class.

³ Typical residential solid waste service is a 32-gallon garbage container and a 96-gallon food and yard waste container.

Paperless Billing Coming



Many of our customers have requested paperless bills. Stay tuned. In the next months we will make bills available electronically to those who enroll. Our new eBill option will provide the following online services: e-mail notices when new statements are issued, one-time or recurring payment options, and utility bill viewing including past statements for payments paid electronically. Watch for more details about eBilling in future issues of @ Your Service.

Identity Theft Prevention

Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle City Light are developing a set of policies and procedures for detecting and preventing identity theft of our customers, including:

- Requiring proof of identification to open or change customer accounts
- Verification of identification via credit bureaus or other sources
- Ensuring limited and secure access to customer data bases
- Reporting suspected identity theft or fraud to law enforcement agencies



Please look for more information in future issues of @ Your Service to see how this will affect your utility account.

Winter Collections

Garbage, food and yard waste, and recycling pickups can be delayed during snowy and icy weather. If your garbage is not picked up during a storm, leave it out to be collected the following day. If weather still prevents collection, put all of your items out the next week on your regular collection day.



If you need to report a missed collection of garbage, recycling, or food and yard waste, you can do it conveniently online anytime of the day at www.seattle.gov/util and search "Missed Collection." Or, call Customer Service the following day at **(206) 684-3000** from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Missed collections will be picked up within two working days.

Collections will be on normal schedule for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 19, and President's Day, Monday, February 16, 2009. SPU customers should place their containers out by 7:00 a.m. to ensure collection. Sign up for *CurbWaste & Conserve E-News* to receive e-mail alerts on impacts to your services. Go to www.seattle.gov/lists.

Better Recycling Coming March 30

Seattle residents will be able to reduce, reuse, and recycle more than ever before! On March 30, new solid waste service changes begin, including:

- A new collection day for most households.
- WEEKLY food and yard waste collection for all single-family households.
- Meat, fish and dairy scraps can go in your food and yard waste cart.
- More food and yard waste cart sizes to choose from.
- More paper, plastic and metal items will be able to be recycled, including cups, deli trays, aluminum foil and plastic plant pots.
- Glass bottles and jars go in your recycling cart — no more separating!
- Electronics, used motor oil and bulky items can be collected through special new services!

Look in your mailbox in March for more information on recycling and collection day changes.

Free Electronics Recycling

Good news about what to do with old electronics! By law starting January 1, 2009, you can recycle an old television, computer, or monitor for free at designated locations. This law applies only to households, charities, school districts, small businesses, and small governments. More questions? Go to www.ecyclewashington.org or call 1-800-RECYCLE.

Check Your Mailbox!

It's not garbage anymore! Food waste makes up more than one-third of the 400,000 tons of garbage Seattle sends to a landfill every year.

Why waste a good thing? Beginning March 30, all City of Seattle single-family households will receive WEEKLY curbside food and yard waste collection. Residents can apply for an exemption if they compost at home.

In January, single-family residents who currently do NOT subscribe to food and yard waste collection will receive a mailer notifying them of their service options.

To receive the smallest food and yard waste cart (13 gallons), subscribers will not need to respond — they will automatically receive the cart in March.

To choose a larger sized food and yard waste cart or opt to compost at home, simply return the mailer, contact www.seattle.gov/util or call **(206) 684-3000** by January 31.

13-Gallon
Food & Yard Waste Cart



Seattle Climate Action

